

Message Text

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21

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 VO-03 INSE-00 SSO-00

IO-13 (ISO) W

----- 129455

O 040947Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4175

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TEGS: SREF SN

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD CAPE ERIMO

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 3677, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 4352 (NOTAL)

1. CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY MALAYSIAN HICOM SECOND SECRETARY TO EMBASSY SINGAPORE WE CONSIDER IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY GOM WOULD ACCEDE TO A REQUEST THAT "CAPE ERIMO" REFUGEES BE OFFLOADED AT PORT KLANG, AS NOTED REFTEL B, MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT IT TOOK A DIRECT PERSONAL APPEAL BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HIMSELF TO PERSUADE THE GOM TO ALLOW 22 REFUGEES FROM "GREEN BAY" TO BE OFFLOADED IN PENANG IN JUNE. IN VIEW OF OTHER INDICATIONS GOM POLICY HARDENING ON TREATMENT OF NEWLY ARRIVING REFUGEES PLUS FACT 22 FROM GREEN BAY NOT YET MOVED WE CONSIDER IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO COUNT ON THE GOM TAKING REFUGEES THAT HAD BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION LAND BY GOS.

2. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE PRINCIPLE SIMILAR TO THAT IN "AVA" CASE WHEREBY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY OF THE FIRST PORT OF CALL OF A VESSEL WITH REFUGEES ABOARD WOULD
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GRANT TEMPORARY ENTRY TO SUCH PERSONS (PER GENEMA 6091)

SHOULD BE PURSUED WITH GOS. PRESUMABLY, UNHCR REP
SAMPATKUMAR WHO HAS DEALING WITH THIS GROUP OF REFUGEES
HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSING FIRST PORT OF CALL PRINCIPLE
WITH THE GOS. IF NOT, HE SHOULD BE.

3. EMBASSY SINGAPORE COMMENT (PARA FOUR REFTTEL A) THAT
ABSENCE OF SAMPATKUMAR FROM HIS K.L. OFFICE CREATES A VOID
IN DEALING WITH GOM IS CORRECT, AS WE HAVE LEARNED IN OUR
EFFORTS TO DETERMINE STATUS OF BOATLOAD OF 94 REFUGEES
THAT ARRIVED AT KUALA TRENGGANU JULY 25. WHEN WE SPOKE WITH
HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING WE WERE TOLD THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW
WHEN HE WILL BE RETURNING FROM HONG KONG.
UNDERHILL

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